

The Committee of Finance offered a resolution, which was adopted, providing for the payment of a bill for the expenses of printing, etc., of two hundred and fifty copies of the second part of the Catalogue of the Library.

On motion of Mr. Fraley, the presiding officer was empowered to appoint, *ad interim*, a Committee of seven members to aid the Trustees of the building fund for the erection of a fire-proof building, in obtaining subscriptions thereto.

And the Society was adjourned.

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*Stated Meeting, November 16, 1866.*

Present, twenty-five members.

Judge SPARSWOOD, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Dr. Jacob M. Da Costa, a recently elected member, was introduced and took his seat.

Letters were read from the Royal Society of London, dated August 27, 1866; from the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institute, dated July 19, December 28, 1865, and January 27, 1866, severally acknowledging the receipt of publications of the Society. Also from the Librarian of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, asking permission for that Society to copy and publish the manuscript "Logan Papers," now in possession of the Society.

A letter from William B. Reed, dated November, 1866, was read, resigning his membership in the Society; which resignation was accepted.

A photograph likeness of Dr. Hugh L. Hodge was presented for the Album.

Donations for the Library were announced as follows: From the Imperial Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg; from the Royal Astronomical and the Royal Societies of London; from the Stonyhurst College Observatory; from the Kew Observatory; from M. Sartorius, his notice of Studer's

Epochs, and from John Biddle, a volume of almanacs published in Philadelphia, by Jacob Taylor, embracing fifteen of the years from 1705 to 1744.

Dr. Hayden made some remarks in regard to an extensive chalk deposit on the Missouri River.

It commences about one hundred miles above Omaha City, and extends to the Great Bend of the Missouri, covering an area of four hundred miles in length and about two hundred in breadth, with an aggregate thickness of one thousand feet or more. The lower part is a somewhat compact gray limestone, and is used by the settlers for building purposes and for burning into lime. The upper portion is a soft, rust-yellow chalk, which, though more impure, very much resembles our chalk of commerce, and could be used for similar economical purposes. It is composed of magnesia, alumina, and a large proportion of carbonate of lime. The coloring matter is the sesquioxide of iron. It is believed that when these beds are more carefully studied, they will be found to be the American representatives of the true chalk-beds of Europe. Hitherto it has not been admitted by geologists that any true chalk deposits existed in America, and all of our chalk of commerce comes from Europe. It is believed that in case of any rupture of our peaceful relations with the Old World, these chalk deposits will become of great economical value. They would also become useful, if needed, as a fertilizer.

Dr. H. also exhibited a number of fossils from this formation, found near Yankton, the capital of Dakota Territory. There were specimens of oysters, very small (*Ostrea congesta*, Conrad), which are crowded together in vast quantities in many localities. There were also several species of *Inoceramus*. But the most remarkable organic remains were those of fishes, which are all undescribed as yet. One species is closely allied to our mackerel, and all of these seem to be very similar to those now found in our salt waters. In the lower gray chalk were some impressions which appear to be those of sea-weeds.

These remarks are made merely to call the attention of scientific men to these wonderful chalk deposits in the Far West.

The minutes of the Board of Officers and Council, at their last meeting, were read.

Pending nominations Nos. 552, 553, 554, and 557, and new nominations, Nos. 558 and 559, were read.

The Committee to aid in obtaining subscriptions to the Society's building fund were announced to be S. V. Merrick, Joseph Harrison, William Sellers, Franklin Peale, Henry Winsor, S. W. Roberts, and Robert Cornelius.

On motion of Mr. Fraley, permission was granted to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania to copy and publish the Logan manuscripts, in the possession of this Society, provided the copying be done in the Hall, under the supervision of the Secretaries of the Society.

The proposition of the Board of Officers and Council to offer a premium "for the best invention for utilizing Anthracite coal dust," was considered, and the following resolution was offered by Mr. Fraley, and adopted:

"*Resolved*, That the Board of Officers and Council be authorized to offer a premium of Five Hundred Dollars for any successful process by which the Anthracite coal-dust may be economically utilized. Such premium to be competed for and awarded in such manner as the Board of Officers and Council may designate; and the premium, if awarded, to be paid out of the accumulated income of the Magellanic Premium Fund."

Mr. Marsh called the attention of the Society to some display of meteors on the night of the 13th inst., that had been seen at New Haven, and asked whether they had been observed by any one in this city. He described the path and appearance of the meteors.

And the Society was adjourned.

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*Stated Meeting, December 7, 1866.*

Present, twenty-three members.

Dr. WOOD, President, in the Chair.

Letters were read from the Society of Antiquaries of London, November 16; from Harvard College, December 3; from the New York Historical Society, December 3, and the Vaudois Society of Natural Sciences, February 27, 1866, ac-